

January 31, 2010

From:
Julie Hulten
42 Homewood Ave.
North Haven, CT 06473

To:
Paul Stacey
Bureau of Water Protection, DEP
79 Elm St.
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Comment on Proposed Stream Flow Regulations

Dear Mr. Stacey:

I'm writing to support the new stream flow regulations being proposed by your department. In a state with 45 inches of rain annually, there is plenty of water for all, as long as we have proper and appropriate management. The draft regulations are reasonable and science-based. They were written by committees of stakeholders during a 4 year process. They provide a structure for balancing the needs of all river and stream stakeholders, including the natural environment.

As a hiker and an individual who believes strongly in the restorative gifts of the natural world, I believe that our state's utilitarian/business driven needs for water should be balanced with the goal of preserving and enhancing the quality of our natural environment. We are all "consumers" of the water that Connecticut is granted due to our natural location and environmental circumstances. The thinking public policy makers must include the needs of the "natural residents" placed here by the same happenstance when considering water management issues.

As an additional incentive in supporting these regulations, I make note that many have commented on the addictive nature of the electronic world, particularly for our youth. Should streams and rivers become desiccated due to lack of water, we will have limited the more desirable healthy choices we would want for them. Providing an attractive, vibrant, and healthy outdoors should be a strong element when considering the needs of water consumers. As someone commented, we can only kill something once and it is gone forever. The proposed regulations take great steps in seriously considering this sentiment, not as a platitude, but as a strong motivator to improve the world in which we find ourselves.

I do have one concern. Class 4, as it is drafted, has the potential to allow some rivers or portions of rivers to be written off as unsalvageable. The draft regulations include no standards for keeping Class 4 streams alive. There is no language saying what level of ecological health should be maintained in those streams. Class 4 should be eliminated or changed by adding qualifying language so that every stream in the state will have some level of protection.

Sincerely,


Julie Hulten

EXHIBIT

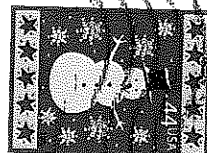
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